

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY

LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

MARCH 31, 2008

Baird, Cotter and Bishop, P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

134 WEST HARRIS STREET CADILLAC, MICHIGAN 49601

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WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

MARCH 31, 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGES</u>
Independent Auditors' Report	i-ii
Management's Discussion and Analysis	iii-ix
Basic Financial Statements	
Government-Wide Financial Statements	
Statement of Net Assets	1
Statement of Activities	2
Fund Financial Statements	
Governmental Funds	
Balance Sheet	3
Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Assets	4
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance	5
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes In Fund Balances to the Statement of Activities	6
Fiduciary Fund	
Statement of Fiduciary Assets and Liabilities	7
Notes to Financial Statements	8-17
Required Supplementary Information	
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Major Governmental Funds	18
Individual Fund Financial Statements	
Agency Funds	
<u>Current Tax Collection Fund</u>	
Statement of Changes in Assets and Liabilities	19

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October 8, 2008

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Township Board
West Branch Township
Missaukee County
Lake City, Michigan

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of West Branch Township, Missaukee County, Lake City, Michigan, as of and for the year ended March 31, 2008, which collectively comprise the Township's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Township's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of West Branch Township, Missaukee County, Lake City, Michigan, as of March 31, 2008, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The management's discussion and analysis on pages iii through ix and budgetary comparison information on page 18 are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise West Branch Township, Missaukee County, Lake City, Michigan's basic financial statements. The individual fund financial statements and other supplementary information are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

BAIRD, COTTER AND BISHOP, P.C.

Baird, Cotter & Bishop, P.C.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

West Branch Township, a general law township located in Missaukee County has implemented the provisions of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 34 (GASB 34). The Management's Discussion and Analysis, a requirement of GASB 34, is intended to be the West Branch Township board's discussion and analysis of the financial results for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2008.

Financial Highlights

- ◆ The assets of the Township exceeded its liabilities at the close of the fiscal year by \$219,541. Of this amount, \$190,757 may be used to meet the township's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- ◆ As of the close of the current fiscal year, the Township's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$209,334. \$190,757 is available for spending at the Township's discretion.
- ◆ The Township is not obligated under any long-term debt as of March 31, 2008.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Township's basic financial statements. The Township's basic financial statements are comprised of three components. 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-Wide Financial Statements The *government-wide financial statements* are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Township's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business. These statements are calculated using full accrual accounting and more closely represent those presented by business and industry. The entire Township's assets and liabilities, both short and long-term, are reported. As such, these statements include capital assets, net of related depreciation.

The *Statement of Net Assets* presents information on all of the Township's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net assets. Over time, increases or decreases in net assets may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Township is improving or deteriorating.

The *Statement of Activities* presents information showing how the Township's net assets changed during the fiscal year. All changes in net assets are reported when the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in the future fiscal periods.

Both of the government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the Township's that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (governmental activities) from functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (business-type activities).

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

Fund Financial Statements

The fund level statements are reported on a modified accrual basis in that only those assets that are “measurable” and “currently available” are reported. Liabilities are recognized to the extent they are normally expected to be paid with current financial resources.

Governmental Funds – Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on current sources and uses of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government’s near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statement, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government’s near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental funds balance sheet and the governmental fund statements of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

Proprietary Funds – Proprietary funds are used to report the same functions presented as business-type activities in the government-wide financial statements. The Township does not maintain any proprietary funds.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

Other Information

In addition to the basic financial statements, this report further presents Required Supplementary Information (RSI) that explains and supports the information presented in the financial statements.

Government-Wide Financial Analysis

The Statement of Net Assets is the first statement in the Government-Wide Financial Statements section of this document. This statement is useful for providing an indicator of the Township’s financial position over time. The Net Assets of the Township are \$219,541 at March 31, 2008, meaning the Township’s assets were greater than its liabilities by this amount.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 209,437
Non Current Assets	
Capital Assets	\$ 29,837
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(19,630)</u>
Total Non Current Assets	<u>\$ 10,207</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 219,644</u></u>
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 103</u>
Net Assets	
Invested in Capital Assets	\$ 10,207
Restricted for Specific Purposes	18,577
Unrestricted	<u>190,757</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 219,541</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 219,644</u></u>

The most significant portions of the Township's Net Assets are cash and investment in capital assets (e.g. land, buildings, equipment, infrastructure, and others) less any related debt that is outstanding that the Township used to acquire the asset. The Township has \$190,757 in unrestricted Net Assets. These assets represent resources that are available for appropriation, but are limited by Township policies regarding their use.

At the end of the current fiscal year, the Township is able to report positive balances in all categories of net assets for the government as a whole, as well as for its separate governmental activities.

The total net assets of the Township increased by \$17,205 in this fiscal year, which is an indicator that the Township experienced positive financial growth during the year. As a result, the Township ended the fiscal year in better condition than when the year began.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

The following table illustrates and summarizes the results of the changes in the net assets for the Township. The condensed information was derived from the Government-wide Statement of Activities.

West Branch Township
Change in Net Assets
for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2008

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
<u>Revenues</u>	
Program Revenues	
Charges for Services	\$ 2,440
Operating Grants and Contributions	1,944
General Revenues	
Taxes	49,258
State Grants	36,376
Interest Earnings	3,694
Other	<u>13</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 93,725</u>
<u>Expenses</u>	
Legislative	\$ 5,179
General Government	40,713
Public Safety	17,577
Public Works	6,917
Other Functions	<u>6,134</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 76,520</u>
Change in Net Assets	\$ 17,205
<u>NET ASSETS</u> - Beginning of Year	<u>202,336</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u> - End of Year	<u><u>\$ 219,541</u></u>

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

Governmental Activities

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2008, the Township's net assets increased by \$17,205 in the governmental funds. The majority of this increase represents the degree to which increases in ongoing revenues have outstripped similar increases in ongoing expenses. This is true despite the fact that GASB 34 now requires the Township to maintain a record of annual depreciation expense and the accumulation of depreciation expense over time. The net increase in accumulated depreciation expense is a reduction in net assets.

The most significant portion of the revenue for all governmental activities of West Branch Township comes from property taxes. The Township levied 1.3857 mills for operating purposes and 0.9856 mills for fire protection.

State shared revenue is collected by the State of Michigan and distributed to local governments by formula allocation of portions of the State sales tax.

The Township's governmental activities expenses are dominated by general governmental expenses that total \$40,713. Public Safety represented the next largest expense at \$17,577.

Business-Type Activities

The Township does not maintain any Business-Type Activities.

Financial Analysis of the Government's Funds

Governmental Funds The focus of West Branch Township's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Township's financing requirement. In particular, unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

At the end of the current fiscal year, West Branch Township's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$209,334. \$190,757 constitutes unreserved fund balance. The remainder of the fund balance is reserved for specific purposes and is therefore not available for new appropriation. For example, the fund balance that is reserved for fire protection must be used for expenditures that relate to fire protection activities.

General Fund – The General Fund increased its fund balance by \$15,424 which brings the fund balance to \$190,757. Taxes amounted to \$32,991. State grants were collected in the amount of \$38,320.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

Fire Fund – The Fire Fund increased its fund balance by \$2,973 bringing the fund balance to \$18,577. Taxes amounted to \$16,267. The only expenditure was for contracted fire protection services in the amount of \$17,077.

Proprietary Fund – The Township does not maintain any proprietary funds.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets. The Township's investment in capital assets for governmental activities as of March 31, 2008 amounted to \$10,207 net of accumulated depreciation.

Capital assets summarized below include any items purchased with a cost greater than \$1,000 individually and that have a useful life greater than one year. A summary of capital asset categories is illustrated below:

West Branch Township
Capital Assets as of March 31, 2006

	Governmental Activities
Land	\$ 5,500
Buildings	19,337
Equipment	5,000
	<u>\$ 29,837</u>
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(19,630)</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u><u>\$ 10,207</u></u>

There no capital asset additions for the year ended March 31, 2008.

Long-Term Debt. West Branch Township has no obligation for any long-term debt as of March 31, 2008.

Economic Condition and Outlook

The unemployment rate is still high in the State of Michigan and the State's shortfall in the budget means potential further reductions in state-shared revenues. The Township's millage rate was reduced again by the Headlee Amendment rollback.

A fire millage was once again levied for the 2008 tax roll.

These factors were considered in preparing the Township's budgets for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

Request for Information

The financial report is designed to provide our citizens, customers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the Township's finances and to demonstrate the Township's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need any additional information, contact West Branch Township at 3029 N. 7 Mile Road, Lake City, Michigan 49651.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
MARCH 31, 2008

	<u>GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>	
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	
Cash	\$ 196,055
Taxes Receivable	6,551
Prepaid Expenditures	561
Due from Other Governments	5,716
External Parties Receivable (Fiduciary)	<u>554</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 209,437</u>
<u>CAPITAL ASSETS</u>	
Land	\$ 5,500
Buildings	19,337
Equipment	<u>5,000</u>
	\$ 29,837
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>19,630</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u>\$ 10,207</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 219,644</u></u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
Payroll Liabilities	<u>\$ 103</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u>	
Invested in Capital Assets	\$ 10,207
Restricted for:	
Fire Protection	18,577
Unrestricted	<u>190,757</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 219,541</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

					NET (EXPENSES) REVENUES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS	EXPENSES	PROGRAM REVENUES			
		CHARGES FOR SERVICES	OPERATING GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	CAPITAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	
<u>PRIMARY GOVERNMENT</u>					
<u>GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</u>					
Legislative	\$ 5,179	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ (5,179)
General Government	40,713	2,440	0	0	(38,273)
Public Safety	17,577	0	0	0	(17,577)
Public Works	6,917	0	1,944	0	(4,973)
Other Functions	6,134	0	0	0	(6,134)
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 76,520</u>	<u>\$ 2,440</u>	<u>\$ 1,944</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ (72,136)</u>
<u>GENERAL REVENUES</u>					
Taxes					\$ 49,258
State Grants					36,376
Interest Earnings					3,694
Other					13
Total General Revenues					<u>\$ 89,341</u>
Change in Net Assets					\$ 17,205
<u>NET ASSETS</u> - Beginning of Year					<u>202,336</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u> - End of Year					<u>\$ 219,541</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

BALANCE SHEET
MARCH 31, 2008

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>FIRE FUND</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>			
Cash	\$ 179,944	\$ 16,111	\$ 196,055
Taxes Receivable	4,085	2,466	6,551
Prepaid Expenditures	561	0	561
Due From Other Governments	5,716	0	5,716
Due From Other Funds	554	0	554
Total Assets	<u>\$ 190,860</u>	<u>\$ 18,577</u>	<u>\$ 209,437</u>
 <u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</u>			
<u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Payroll Liabilities	<u>\$ 103</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 103</u>
<u>FUND BALANCE</u>			
Reserved for:			
Fire Protection	\$ 0	\$ 18,577	\$ 18,577
Unreserved			
Undesignated	190,757	0	190,757
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$ 190,757</u>	<u>\$ 18,577</u>	<u>\$ 209,334</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	 <u>\$ 190,860</u>	 <u>\$ 18,577</u>	 <u>\$ 209,437</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET TO THE STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
MARCH 31, 2008

Total Fund Balances for Governmental Funds	\$	209,334
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Amounts Reported for Governmental Activities in the
Statement of Net Assets are Different Because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not
financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.

Land	\$	5,500	
Buildings		19,337	
Equipment		5,000	
Accumulated Depreciation		<u>(19,630)</u>	<u>10,207</u>

NET ASSETS OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	\$	<u><u>219,541</u></u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY

LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

	GENERAL FUND	FIRE FUND	TOTALS
<u>REVENUES</u>			
Taxes	\$ 32,991	\$ 16,267	\$ 49,258
State Grants	38,320	0	38,320
Charges for Services	2,440	0	2,440
Interest and Rents	3,694	0	3,694
Other Revenues	13	0	13
Total Revenues	\$ 77,458	\$ 16,267	\$ 93,725
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			
Legislative	\$ 5,179	\$ 0	\$ 5,179
General Government	39,521	0	39,521
Public Safety	500	17,077	17,577
Public Works	6,917	0	6,917
Other Functions	6,134	0	6,134
Total Expenditures	\$ 58,251	\$ 17,077	\$ 75,328
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	19,207	(810)	18,397
<u>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</u>			
Transfers In	0	3,783	3,783
Transfers Out	(3,783)	0	(3,783)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(3,783)	3,783	0
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ 15,424	\$ 2,973	\$ 18,397
<u>FUND BALANCE</u> - Beginning of Year	175,333	15,604	190,937
<u>FUND BALANCE</u> - End of Year	\$ 190,757	\$ 18,577	\$ 209,334

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCES TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
MARCH 31, 2008

Net change in Fund Balance - Total Governmental Funds	\$ 18,397
Amounts reported for governmental activities are different because:	
Governmental funds report capital outlay as expenditures in the statement of activities. These costs are allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation.	
Depreciation Expense	<u>(1,192)</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	<u><u>\$ 17,205</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
MARCH 31, 2008

	<u>AGENCY FUNDS</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>	
Cash	\$ <u>554</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
Due to General Fund	\$ <u>554</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2008

I. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Reporting Entity

West Branch Township is a general law township located in Missaukee County which operates under the direction of an elected township board. Under the criteria established by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the Township has determined that there are no component units which should be included in its reporting entity.

B. Government-wide and Fund Financial Statements

During fiscal year 2005, the Township adopted GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments*, as amended by GASB Statements No. 37 and No. 38, and applied those standards on a retroactive basis. GASB Statement No. 34 establishes standards for external financial reporting for state and local governments and requires that resources be classified for accounting and reporting purposes into the following three net asset categories.

Invested in Capital assets, net of related debt consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by outstanding balances for bonds, notes, and other debt that are attributed to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.

Restricted net assets result when constraints placed on net asset use are either externally imposed by creditors, grantors, and contributions, or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Unrestricted net assets consist of net assets which do not meet the definition of the two preceding categories.

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net assets and the statement of changes in net assets) report information on all of the non-fiduciary activities of the government. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Program revenues include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as general revenues.

The government-wide focus is more on the sustainability of the Township as an entity and the change in aggregate financial position resulting from the activities of the fiscal period.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2008

C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Basis of Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, as are the fiduciary fund financial statements. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences and claims and judgments, are recorded only when payment is due.

Property taxes and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. Sales taxes collected and held by the state at year end on behalf of the government are also recognized as revenue. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the government.

Entitlements and shared revenues are recorded at the time of receipt or earlier if the susceptible to accrual criteria are met. Expenditure-driven grants are recognized as revenue when the qualifying expenditures have been incurred and all other grant requirements have been met.

The accounts of the Township are organized on the basis of funds. A fund is an independent fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting segregates funds according to their intended purpose and is used to aid management in demonstrating compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions. The minimum number of funds are maintained consistent with legal and managerial requirements.

West Branch Township reports the following major governmental funds:

The *General Fund* is the government's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

The *Fire Fund* accounts for revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditure for fire protection.

Additionally, West Branch Township reports the following fund types:

Agency funds are custodial in nature and do not present results of operations or have a measurement focus. Agency funds are accounted for using the accrual basis of accounting. These funds are used to account for assets that the Township holds for others in an agency capacity.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2008

As a general rule, the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements. Exceptions to this general rule are payments-in-lieu of taxes and other charges between the other functions of the government. Elimination of these charges would distort the direct costs and program revenues reported for the various functions involved. Amounts reported as program revenues include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided, 2) operating grants and contributions, and 3) capital grants and contributions, including special assessments. Internally dedicated resources are reported as general revenues rather than as program revenues. Likewise, general revenues include all taxes.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Township's policy to use the restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

D. Assets, Liabilities and Equity

1. Deposits and Investments

The Township's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from date of acquisition.

- I. The investment policy adopted by the Township states that the Township is limited to investments authorized by PA 20 of 1943, as amended, and may invest in the following:
 - a. Bonds, securities and other obligations of the United States, or an agency or instrumentality of the United States.
 - b. Certificates of deposit, savings accounts, deposit accounts, or depository receipts of a financial institution. Authorized depositories shall be designated by the West Branch Township Board at the Board's organizational meeting after each regular election of board members.
 - c. Commercial paper rated at the time of purchase within the two highest classifications established by not more than 270 days after the date of purchase.
 - d. Repurchase agreements consisting of instruments listed in (a).
 - e. Banker's acceptances of United States banks.
 - f. Investment pools through an interlocal agreement under the Urban Cooperation Act of 1967, 1967 (Ex Sess) PA 7, MCL 124.501 to 124.512.
 - g. Investment pools organized under the Surplus Funds Investment Pool Act, 1982 PA 367, 129.111 to 129.118.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2008

2. *Receivables and Payables*

Transactions between funds that are representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as either "due to/from other funds" (i.e., the current portion of interfund loans) or "advances to/from other funds" (i.e., the non-current portion of interfund loans). All other outstanding balances between funds are reported as "due to/from other funds."

All trade and property tax receivables are shown net of an allowance for uncollectibles. Property taxes attach as an enforceable lien on the property as of the date they are levied. State education taxes and county taxes are levied and due July 1, and become delinquent after September 14. The remaining millages are levied and due December 1, and become delinquent after February 14. Collections of taxes and remittances of them are accounted for in the Current Tax Collection Fund. Township property tax revenues are recognized when they become both measurable and available for use to finance Township operations. Amounts which are not expected to be collected within sixty days are treated as deferred revenues.

The 2007 taxable valuation of West Branch Township totaled \$16,507,860, on which ad valorem taxes levied consisted of 1.3857 mills for West Branch Township operating purposes and 0.9856 mills for West Branch Township fire protection. These levies raised \$22,872 for operating purposes and \$16,268 for fire protection.

3. *Inventories and Prepaid Items*

Inventories are not significant and are expensed as acquired.

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items.

4. *Capital Assets*

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment, and infrastructure assets (e.g., roads, bridges, sidewalks, and similar items), are reported in the applicable columns in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the government as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$1,000 (amount not rounded) and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized.

Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2008

Property, plant and equipment of the primary government are depreciated using the straight line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
Buildings	50
Building improvements	20
Public domain infrastructure	50
Land improvements	20
Vehicles	10
Equipment	5-10

West Branch Township qualifies as a phase 3 governmental unit in regards to the implementation of GASB 34. Phase 3 governmental units are not required to retroactively capitalize infrastructure. As a result, the Township will capitalize and depreciate infrastructure beginning April 1, 2004, in accordance with the Township's capitalization policy.

5. *Long-term Obligations*

In the government-wide financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable governmental activities. Bond premiums and discounts, as well as issuance costs, are amortized over the life of the bonds using the effective interest method. Bond issuance costs are reported as deferred charges and amortized over the term of the related debt.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures.

6. *Fund Equity*

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report reservations of fund balance for amounts that are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose. Designations of fund balance represent tentative management plans that are subject to change.

7. *Use of Estimates*

The presentation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2008

II. STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Budgetary Information

The annual budget is adopted on the modified accrual basis in accordance with the requirements of Michigan Public Act 621 of 1978 "The Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act". A public hearing is held to obtain taxpayer comments. Appropriations lapse at year end. Budget amounts are as originally adopted on March 28, 2007.

The appropriated budget is prepared by fund and activity. The Township Board exercises budgetary control over expenditures.

Encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for expenditure of monies are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, is not employed by the Township because it is, at present, not considered necessary to assure effective budgetary control or to facilitate effective cash planning and control.

B. Funds with expenditures in excess of appropriations were as follows:

	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
General Fund		
General Government		
Supervisor	3,850	6,835
Treasurer	9,680	10,158

These overages were funded by greater than anticipated revenues and available fund balance.

III.DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS

A. Deposits and Investments

The Township's deposits are all on deposit with Chemical Bank West in Lake City, Michigan, and Fifth Third Bank in Cadillac, Michigan.

Investment rate risk. The Township will minimize Interest Rate Risk, which is the risk that the market value of securities in the portfolio will fall due to changes in market interest rates, by; structuring the investment portfolio so that securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations, thereby avoiding the need to sell securities in the open market; and investing operating funds primarily in shorter-term securities, liquid asset funds, money market mutual funds, or similar investing pools and limiting the average maturity in accordance with the Township's cash requirement.

Foreign currency risk. The Township is not authorized to invest in investments, which have this type of risk.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2008

Credit risk. The Township will minimize Custodial Credit Risk, which is the risk of loss due to the failure of the security issuer or backer, by; limiting investments to the types of securities listed in Section 9 of the Township's investment policy; and pre-qualifying the financial institutions, brokers/dealer, intermediaries and advisors with which the Township will do business in accordance with Section 7 of the Township's investment policy.

Concentration of credit risk. The Township will minimize Concentration of Credit Risk, which is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the Township's investment in a single issuer, by diversifying the investment portfolio so that the impact of potential losses from any one type of security or issuer will be minimized.

Custodial credit risk – deposits. In the case of deposits, this is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. As of March 31, 2008, \$65,806 of the government's bank balance of \$224,375 was exposed to custodial credit risk because it was uninsured and uncollateralized.

Custodial credit risk – investments. For an investment, this is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the government will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The Township's investments are categorized to give an indication of the level of risk assumed by the Township at year end. Category 1 includes investments that are insured or registered, or securities held by the Township or the Township's agent in the Township's name. Category 2 includes investments that are uninsured and unregistered with securities held by the counterparty's trust department or its agent in the Township's name. Category 3 includes investments that are uninsured and unregistered, with the securities held by the counterparty, or by its trust department or its agent but not in the Township's name. At year end, the Township held no investments.

B. Receivables

Receivables as of year end for the government's individual major funds are as follows:

	<u>General</u>	<u>Fire</u>	<u>Total</u>
Receivables			
Taxes	\$ 4,085	\$ 2,466	\$ 6,551
Due from Other Governments	5,716	0	5,716

The allowance for doubtful accounts is not considered to be material for disclosure. As a result, its uncollectible accounts are virtually nil.

Governmental funds report deferred revenue in connection with receivables for revenues that are not considered to be available to liquidate liabilities of the current period. Governmental funds also defer revenue recognition in connection with resources that have been received, but not yet earned.

No deferred revenue was recorded in any of the funds at the end of the current fiscal year.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2008

C. Capital Assets

Primary Government

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
<u>Governmental activities:</u>				
Capital assets, not being depreciated				
Land	\$ 5,500	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 5,500
Capital assets, being depreciated				
Buildings	\$ 19,337	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 19,337
Equipment	5,000	0	0	5,000
Total capital assets, being depreciated	\$ 24,337	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 24,337
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Buildings	\$ 17,938	\$ 692	\$ 0	\$ 18,630
Equipment	500	500	0	1,000
Total accumulated depreciation	\$ 18,438	\$ 1,192	\$ 0	\$ 19,630
Total capital assets, being depreciated, net	\$ 5,899	\$ (1,192)	\$ 0	\$ 4,707
Governmental activities capital assets, net	\$ 11,399	\$ (1,192)	\$ 0	\$ 10,207

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs of the primary government as follows:

Governmental activities:

 General Government \$ 1,192

Construction Commitments:

The government has no outstanding construction commitments as of March 31, 2008.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2008

D. Interfund Receivables, Payables and Transfers

Individual fund interfund receivable and payable balances at March 31, 2008, were:

<u>Fund</u>	INTERFUND RECEIVABLES DUE FROM'S	INTERFUND PAYABLES DUE TO'S
General Fund	\$ 554	\$ 0
Fiduciary Funds		
Current Tax Collection Fund	0	554
	<u>\$ 554</u>	<u>\$ 554</u>

All remaining balances resulted from the time lag between the dates that (1) interfund goods and services are provided or reimbursable expenditures occur, (2) transactions are recorded in the accounting system, and (3) payments between funds are made. All are expected to be resolved within one year.

E. Long-Term Debt

At March 31, 2008, the Township was not obligated for any long-term debt.

F. Fund Balance Reserves

In order to comply with generally accepted accounting principles and meet certain legal requirements, the Township has reserved fund balances in various funds. These reserves are detailed in the following schedule:

FUND BALANCE/NET ASSETS

Reserved

 Special Revenue Funds

 Fire Fund

 Fire Protection \$ 18,577

TOTAL FUND BALANCE/NET ASSETS RESERVES \$ 18,577

G. Fire Protection Contracts

The Township has a contract with Norwich Township and paid \$5,000 for fire protection for the period April 1, 2007, to March 31, 2008. In addition, the contract calls for additional charges for fire runs.

The Township has a contract with the Merritt Area Fire Department for fire protection for a portion of the Township. The contract runs from April 1, 2007, to March 31, 2008. The basic charge for this service is determined by multiplying the taxable value for the area covered by the agreement times .001. In addition, there is a flat charge of \$500 for each fire run.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2008

IV. OTHER INFORMATION

A. Risk Management

The Township is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters. The Township participates in a pool of municipalities within the State of Michigan for self-insuring property and casualty, crime, general liability, workers compensation insurance and errors and omissions insurance. The Township pays annual premiums to the pool for the respective insurance coverage. In the event the pool's total claims and expenses for a policy year exceed the total normal annual premiums for said years, all members of the specific pool's policy year may be subject to special assessments to make up the deficiency. The Township has not been informed of any special assessments being required for the current year or the three prior years.

The Township continues to carry insurance for other risks of loss, including fidelity bonds.

B. Retirement Plan

Effective January 1, 1992, the Township established a Simplified Employee Pension Individual Retirement Account (SEP-IRA). The plan was established with Chemical Bank West, Lake City, Michigan. The plan covers all elected Township officials and the Township cemetery sexton. Contributions under the plan are equal to 7.5% of covered wages and are paid on a quarterly basis. Township contributions to the plan for 2007-2008 amounted to \$2,181.

The individual retirement account balances become the property of the employee immediately. Therefore, there are no plan assets or liabilities which are includible as part of the Township reporting entity.

C. Property Tax Administration Fee

The Township passed a resolution on October 14, 1984, to charge a 1% administration fee on all property taxes levied after this date.

The Township has determined that authorized costs of tax collection will be repeatedly in excess of the revenue generated by the administration fee so that a restricted earnings account is not reflected in these statements.

D. Sale of Future Revenues

For several years, the Township has sold its rights to delinquent real property tax revenues and related late payment penalties to the Missaukee County treasurer. For the 2007 tax roll the Township received a lump sum payment of \$3,468 for general operating tax revenues, and \$2,466 for fire operating tax revenues. These amounts represent 100% of the present value of the delinquent real property tax revenues. In exchange for these payments, the counties are allowed to keep the delinquent taxes collected plus the late payment penalties charged. If the county is ultimately unable to collect any of these delinquent taxes, the Township will have to repay the county.

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			<u>FIRE FUND</u>		
	<u>ORIGINAL BUDGET</u>	<u>FINAL BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ORIGINAL BUDGET</u>	<u>FINAL BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
<u>REVENUES</u>						
Taxes	\$ 29,750	\$ 29,750	\$ 32,991	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 16,267
State Grants	30,000	30,000	38,320	0	0	0
Charges for Services	900	900	2,440	0	0	0
Interest and Rents	600	600	3,694	0	0	0
Other Revenues	0	0	13	0	0	0
Total Revenues	\$ 61,250	\$ 61,250	\$ 77,458	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 16,267
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>						
Legislative						
Township Board	\$ 7,560	\$ 7,560	\$ 5,179	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
General Government						
Supervisor	3,850	3,850	6,835	0	0	0
Elections	2,150	2,150	753	0	0	0
Assessor	8,440	8,440	7,110	0	0	0
Clerk	7,670	7,670	7,573	0	0	0
Board of Review	1,235	1,235	867	0	0	0
Treasurer	9,680	9,680	10,158	0	0	0
Building and Grounds	6,200	6,200	1,611	0	0	0
Cemetery	7,200	7,200	4,614	0	0	0
Public Safety						
Fire Department	600	600	500	20,000	20,000	17,077
Public Works						
Highways, Streets and Bridges	50,000	50,000	6,917	0	0	0
Other Functions						
Insurance and Bonds	4,000	4,000	2,595	0	0	0
Employee Benefits	4,000	4,000	3,539	0	0	0
Contingencies	15,000	15,000	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	\$ 127,585	\$ 127,585	\$ 58,251	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 17,077
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	\$ (66,335)	\$ (66,335)	\$ 19,207	\$ (7,000)	\$ (7,000)	\$ (810)
<u>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</u>						
Transfers In	0	0	0	0	0	3,783
Transfers Out	0	0	(3,783)	0	0	0
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	0	0	(3,783)	0	0	3,783
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (66,335)	\$ (66,335)	\$ 15,424	\$ (7,000)	\$ (7,000)	\$ 2,973
<u>FUND BALANCE</u> - Beginning of Year	0	0	175,333	0	0	15,604
<u>FUND BALANCE</u> - End of Year	\$ (66,335)	\$ (66,335)	\$ 190,757	\$ (7,000)	\$ (7,000)	\$ 18,577

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP, MISSAUKEE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, MICHIGAN

CURRENT TAX COLLECTION FUND

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

	BALANCE 4/1/2007	ADDITIONS	DEDUCTIONS	BALANCE 3/31/2008
<u>CURRENT TAX COLLECTION FUND</u>				
<u>ASSETS</u>				
Cash	\$ 1,463	\$ 479,030	\$ 479,939	\$ 554
<u>LIABILITIES</u>				
Due to Other Funds	\$ 1,463	\$ 39,687	\$ 40,596	\$ 554
Due to Other Organizations and Individuals	0	636	636	0
Due to Other Governments	0	438,707	438,707	0
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,463	\$ 479,030	\$ 479,939	\$ 554

Baird, Cotter and Bishop, P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

134 WEST HARRIS STREET CADILLAC, MICHIGAN 49601

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October 8, 2008

To the Township Board
West Branch Township
Missaukee County
Lake City, Michigan

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of West Branch Township, Missaukee County, Lake City, Michigan as of and for the year ended March 31, 2008, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered West Branch Township's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the governmental unit's internal control. Accordingly we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the governmental unit's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be significant deficiencies and other deficiencies that we consider to be material weaknesses.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or a combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control. We consider the following deficiencies to be significant deficiencies in internal control:

1) Lack of Segregation of Duties

The relatively small number of people involved in the accounting functions of the Township and the design of the accounting system as developed by the state make it difficult to adequately segregate duties. Segregation of accounting duties is a fundamental method of strengthening internal control. However, in deciding what internal control procedures should be implemented, the Board must consider the costs of implementing them and weigh those costs against the benefits to be derived from their implementation.

2) Lack of Adequate Controls to Produce Full Disclosure GAAP Basis Financial Statements.

All Michigan governments are required to prepare financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principals (GAAP). This is a responsibility of the government's management. The preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires internal controls over both (1) recording, processing, and summarizing accounting data (i.e., maintaining internal books and records), and (2) reporting government-wide and fund financial statements, including the related footnotes (i.e., external financial reporting).

As is the case with many smaller and medium-sized entities, the government has historically relied on its independent external auditors to assist in the preparation of the government-wide financial statements and footnotes as part of its external financial reporting process. Accordingly, the government's ability to prepare financial statements in accordance with GAAP is based, in part, on its reliance on its *external* auditors, who cannot by definition be considered a part of the government's *internal* controls.

This condition was caused by the government's decision that it is more cost effective to outsource the preparation of its annual financial statements to the auditors than to incur the time and expense of obtaining the necessary training and expertise required for the government to perform this task internally. As a result of this condition, the government lacks internal controls over the preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and instead relies, in part, on its external auditors for assistance with this task.

The government has evaluated the cost vs. benefit of establishing internal controls over the preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and determined that it is in the best interests of the government to outsource this task to its external auditors, and to carefully review the draft financial statements and notes prior to approving them and accepting responsibility for their content and presentation.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or a combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control. We believe that the deficiency described in (1) above (Lack of Segregation of Duties) constitutes a material weakness.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Board and others within the organization. This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of the report, which is a matter of public record.

BAIRD, COTTER AND BISHOP, P.C.

Baird, Cotter & Bishop, P.C.

Baird, Cotter and Bishop, P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

134 WEST HARRIS STREET CADILLAC, MICHIGAN 49601
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October 8, 2008

To the Township Board
West Branch Township
Missaukee County
Lake City, Michigan

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of West Branch Township for the year ended March 31, 2008, and have issued our report thereon dated October 8, 2008. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit.

Our Responsibility under U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards

As stated in our engagement letter dated April 23, 2008, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express opinions about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement. As part of our audit, we considered the internal control of West Branch Township. Such considerations were solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control. We are responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures specifically to identify such matters.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we will advise management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by West Branch Township are described in Note I to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2007-08. We noted no transactions entered into by the governmental unit during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. There are no significant transactions that have been recognized in the financial statements in a different period than when the transaction occurred.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. No material misstatements were noted. We did propose several adjusting journal entries that were accepted and recorded by management.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated October 8, 2008.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

During the course of our audit of the basic financial statements of West Branch Township for the year ended March 31, 2008, we noted the following list of items which we feel deserve comment:

Fire Fund

Beginning with the 2002 Tax Roll the Township began to levy extra voted millage for Fire Protection. The Collections from this levy and the expenditures for Fire Protection have been accounted for in the Townships General Fund.

The Township should record the Fire Fund revenues and expenditures on a separate set of books in the future, out of the General Fund. This will help account for the proper tax collection fund transactions.

This comment is a repeated comment from the previous year.

Budgeting

1. A budget was not adopted to account for the Fire Fund transactions but was included in the General Fund budget. In the future, a separate and distinct budget should be adopted for this newly created fund.
2. Several activities in the Township General Fund exceeded budgeted amounts. The budget should always be amended prior to incurring expenditures in excess of the budgeted amounts. These amendments should be approved by the Township Board and recorded in the official minutes.

3. The budget document did not include beginning and ending fund balance amounts. In the future, these amounts should be included in the budget documents.

The amendments to the budget throughout the year should be clearly noted in the board minutes.

This comment is a repeated comment from the previous year.

Bank Reconciliations

Upon examination it was apparent that the books are not being reconciled to the bank on a regular basis. As a method of strengthening internal control, we recommend the Township implement a process to reconcile the books to the bank on a monthly basis.

We would like to thank the board for its continued confidence in our firm and to thank the Township officers for their cooperation.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Board and others within the organization. This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of the report, which is a matter of public record.

BAIRD, COTTER AND BISHOP, P.C.

Baird, Cotter & Bishop, P.C.